

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A directory system for providing directory services in a communications network using stored directory objects, the directory system comprising:

a network interface providing access to the directory system from a communications network;

memory means; and

at least one processor;

wherein directory objects are stored in said memory means as directory data, said directory data including:

attribute data representing attributes of said directory objects,

directory information tree (DIT) data representing a hierarchical directory tree structure for said directory objects, and

management data for managing said directory objects; and

wherein portions of said memory means constitute memory segments dedicated to storage of corresponding subsets of said directory data, said memory segments including

(a) one or more attribute segments, each of said attribute segments being dedicated to storage of (a) attribute data for a plurality of directory objects, (b) one or more DIT segments, each of said DIT segments being dedicated to storage of DIT data for a plurality of directory objects, and (c) one or more object segments, each of said object segments being dedicated to storage of management data for a plurality of directory objects.

2. (Previously Presented) A directory system as claimed in claim 1, wherein said directory system is configured to allocate portions of said memory means to provide said memory segments.

3. (Previously Presented) A directory system as claimed in claim 1, wherein each of said attribute segments includes one or more attribute sub-segments dedicated to storage of attribute data for respective object classes.

4. (Previously Presented) A directory system as claimed in claim 1, wherein each of said attribute segments includes one or more attribute sub-segments dedicated to storage of attribute data for respective attribute types.

5. (Previously Presented) A directory system as claimed in claim 1, wherein each of said attribute segments includes one or more attribute sub-segments dedicated to storage of attribute data for attributes of respective attribute types.

6. (Original) A directory system as claimed in claim 1, wherein said attribute segments store attribute data for respective portions of a directory information tree (DIT).

7. (Previously Presented) A directory system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the attribute data stored in one or more attribute segments are grouped according to one or more of object class, attribute type, attribute, and portion of a DIT.

8. (Previously Presented) A directory system as claimed in claim 5, wherein said attribute data includes a normalized attribute value and a hash value for each attribute value.

9. (Previously Presented) A directory system as claimed in claim 8, wherein the directory system generates and stores a hash value for each relative distinguished name in said attribute sub-segments.

10. (Original) A directory system as claimed in claim 5, wherein said attribute data includes a context prefix identifier of a corresponding entry, and a relative distinguished name identifier of said entry.

11. (Original) A directory system as claimed in claim 5, wherein said attribute data includes data indicating whether each of said attributes is associated with one or more other attributes.

12. (Original) A directory system as claimed in claim 5, wherein said attribute data includes data indicating whether each of said attributes is a sponsoring attribute for one or more other attributes.

13. (Previously Presented) A directory system as claimed in claim 1, wherein attributes having the same object naming characteristics are stored together.

14. (Original) A directory system as claimed in claim 13, wherein the object naming characteristics of an attribute correspond to one of distinguished attributes, aliased distinguished names, and non-naming attributes.

15. (Previously Presented) A directory system as claimed in claim 1, wherein attributes having the same directory information characteristics are stored together.

16. (Previously Presented) A directory system as claimed in claim 15, wherein the directory information characteristics of an attribute correspond to one of collective attributes, compound attributes, attributes of compound attributes, X.500/LDAP operational attributes, user operational attributes, sponsoring attributes, and other attributes.

17. Cancelled.

18. (Previously Presented) A directory system as claimed in claim 1, wherein said management data includes security data.

19. (Previously Presented) A directory system as claimed in claim 1, wherein said object segments include a first object segment for storing distinct name binding rules for directory objects, and at least one second object segment for storing other object data for said directory objects.

20. (Previously Presented) A directory system as claimed in claim 1, wherein said object segments include a first object segment for storing access control data for directory objects, and at least one second object segment for storing other object data for said directory objects.

21. (Original) A directory system as claimed in claim 20, wherein the directory system is adapted to generate one or more access control identifiers for a user on the basis of access configuration information for said user, and to determine said user's access to a directory object on the basis of access control identifiers associated with said object and said user.

22. (Original) A directory system as claimed in claim 21, wherein said one or more access control identifiers identify one or more of a specific user, a group of users, and a generic user.

23. (Original) A directory system as claimed in claim 21, wherein each access control identifier includes respective components for accessing a selected DIT, for

performing a selected directory operation, for accessing a selected attribute group, and for accessing a selected attribute type.

24. (Original) A directory system as claimed in claim 21, wherein said access control data includes one or more access control identifiers for each directory object, and hierarchical access data defining access to a DIT, a directory operation, an attribute group, and an attribute type.

25. (Previously Presented) A directory system as claimed in claim 1, wherein each of said object segments includes one or more object sub-segments, each of said object sub-segments including object cells for storing DIT schema data and access control data for controlling access to a DIT or a portion of a DIT.

26. (Original) A directory system as claimed in claim 24, wherein said access control data includes one or more numeric access control identifiers.

27. (Previously Presented) A directory system as claimed in claim 25, wherein the directory system generates access control identifiers on the basis of user configuration data specifying user access to one or more parts of a DIT and stores said access control identifiers in object sub-segment cells corresponding to said one or more parts of said DIT.

28. (Previously Presented) A directory system as claimed in claim 20, wherein:

the directory system generates a directory operation access control identifier for use in determining whether a user is granted access to perform a selected directory operation on a selected attribute type in a selected portion of a DIT, said directory operation access control identifier identifying said directory operation, said portion of said DIT and said attribute type, and

the directory system determines whether said access is granted on the basis of a comparison of said directory operation access control identifier with one or more access control identifiers associated with one or more of said portion of said DIT, said attribute type, and an attribute type group including said attribute type.

29. (Previously Presented) A directory system as claimed in claim 20, wherein:

the directory system generates one or more access control identifiers for a user on the basis of access configuration information for said user, and

a trusted operating system is used to determine said user's access to a directory object on the basis of access control identifiers associated with said object and said user.

30. (Previously Presented) A directory system as claimed in claim 20, wherein:

the directory system generates one or more access control identifiers for a user on the basis of access configuration information for said user, and

the directory system includes an attribute processor adapted to determine said user's access to a directory object on the basis of access control identifiers associated with said object and said user.

31. Cancelled.

32. (Previously Presented) A directory system as claimed in claim 1, wherein each DIT segment includes one or more DIT sub-segments, each of said DIT sub-segments including DIT cells storing references to non-leaf entries of a directory tree.

33. (Previously Presented) A directory system as claimed in claim 32, wherein said DIT sub-segments store references to respective portions of a DIT.

34. (Previously Presented) A directory system as claimed in claim 33, wherein said portions correspond to selected portions of a DIT having a flat namespace.

35. (Original) A directory system as claimed in claim 32, wherein two or more DIT sub-segments represent portions of a DIT having a flat namespace.

36. (Previously Presented) A directory system as claimed in claim 35, wherein two or more of said DIT sub-segments store references to a selected portion of a DIT.

37. (Previously Presented) A directory system as claimed in claim 36, wherein each of said references includes a name and a prefix.

38. (Original) A directory system as claimed in claim 36, wherein each of said references includes a distinguished name prefix and a hash value for said distinguished name prefix.

39. (Original) A directory system as claimed in claim 27, wherein one or more of said DIT sub-segments includes one or more access control identifiers for controlling access to a corresponding DIT sub-segment.

40. Cancelled.

41. (Previously Presented) A directory system as claimed in claim 1, wherein each of said DIT segments identifies one or more object segments having stored therein management data for objects of the DIT segment, and one or more attribute segments having stored therein attribute data for said objects.

42. (Previously Presented) A directory system as claimed in claim 1, wherein said management data includes name binding rules and access control data for said directory objects.

43. (Original) A directory system as claimed in claim 1, wherein said plurality of memory segments includes a plurality of transaction segments for storing transaction data representing phases of a directory transaction to allow recovery of said directory transaction.

44. (Original) A directory system as claimed in claim 43, including a transaction management component for updating said transaction data during said phases of a directory transaction.

45. (Original) A directory system as claimed in claim 44, wherein said transaction management component is adapted to recover directory data on the basis of said transaction data.

46. (Original) A directory system as claimed in claim 1, wherein said plurality of memory segments includes at least one adaptation segment for storing adaptation data representing the usage of said memory segments.

47. (Original) A directory system as claimed in claim 46, wherein said adaptation data represents the organisation of directory data stored in said plurality of memory segments.

48. (Original) A directory system as claimed in claim 1, including an adaptation component for automatically reconfiguring said memory segments on the basis of usage of said memory segments.

49. (Original) A directory system as claimed in claim 48, wherein said reconfiguring includes segregating one or more portions of said directory data on the basis of access frequencies for said one or more portions of said directory data.

50. (Original) A directory system as claimed in claim 48, wherein said reconfiguring includes segregating one or more portions of said directory data on the basis of the number of instances of an entity of said directory data in a region of memory.

51. (Original) A directory system as claimed in claim 48, wherein said reconfiguring includes segregating instances of an attribute type from a name space into two or more regions of memory.

52. (Original) A directory system as claimed in claim 48, wherein said reconfiguring includes segregating instances of an object class into two or more regions of memory.

53. (Original) A directory system as claimed in claim 48, wherein said reconfiguring includes segregating one or more portions of said directory data on the basis of access control data for said one or more portions of said directory data.

54. (Original) A directory system as claimed in claim 48, wherein said reconfiguring includes aggregating directory data for a multi-object entity.

55. (Original) A directory system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the directory system is adapted to store selected portions of said directory data in respective regions of memory, and to store other portions of said directory data in backing store.

56. (Original) A directory system as claimed in claim 1, including a plurality of modules for accessing and managing said plurality of memory segments.

57. (Original) A directory system as claimed in claim 56, including a statistical module for generating statistical data in relation to directory entries.

58. (Original) A directory system as claimed in claim 56, including a monitoring module for monitoring one or more directory entries and for generating notification data in response to modification of a monitored directory entry.

59. (Original) A directory system as claimed in claim 56, including a collective attributes module for segregating collective attributes of entries within a name space.

60. (Original) A directory system as claimed in claim 56, including a validation module for validating one or more certificate paths.

61. (Original) A directory system as claimed in claim 56, including a multi-object management module for processing two or more objects as an entity.

62. (Original) A directory system as claimed in claim 61, wherein said two or more objects include a sponsoring object and one or more sponsored objects.

63. (Original) A directory system as claimed in claim 62, wherein said multi-object management module is adapted to automatically generate said one or more sponsored objects when a sponsoring object is generated.

64. (Original) A directory system as claimed in claim 63, wherein said multi-object module is adapted to initialise attributes and access controls of said sponsored objects when a sponsoring object is generated.

65. (Original) A directory system as claimed in claim 63, wherein said multi-object module is adapted to automatically generate one or more objects related to a user object when said user object is generated.

66. (Previously Presented) A directory system as claimed in claim 65, wherein said user object represents a user, and said one or more objects represent one or more services for said user.

67. (Previously Presented) A directory system as claimed in claim 66, wherein said one or more services includes a presence service.

68. (Original) A directory system as claimed in claim 56, including a user presence module for generating user presence data to indicate whether a user is using a directory.

69. (Previously Presented) A directory system as claimed in claim 68, wherein said user presence module is adapted to generate one or more events in response to a change in said user presence data.

70. (Original) A directory system as claimed in claim 56, including a service authorization module for determining whether a user is authorised to use one or more services.

71. (Original) A directory system as claimed in claim 70, wherein said service authorization module is adapted to perform said determining in response to a directory search.

72. (Original) A directory system as claimed in claim 71, wherein said directory search is based on an authorisation matching rule, service and device properties, and an authorisation token.

73. (Original) A directory system as claimed in claim 56, including a relational search module for performing a distributed object relational search in response to a search query including relational operators.

74-76. Cancelled.

77. (Original) A directory system as claimed in claim 74, including one or more messaging gateway modules for communicating with remote messaging systems using one or more messaging protocols.

78. (Original) A directory system as claimed in claim 1, including at least one attribute processor adapted to store and process attribute data of a directory.

79. (Original) A directory system as claimed in claim 78, wherein said attribute processor includes an application-specific integrated circuit.

80. (Previously Presented) A directory system as claimed in claim 1 including one or more messaging modules for providing transactional messaging services to users.

81. (Original) A directory system as claimed in claim 80, wherein said transactional messaging services include at least one of email and instant messaging.

82. (Original) A directory system as claimed in claim 80, wherein said one or more messaging modules are adapted to store message data as one or more objects in said directory.

83. (Original) A directory system as claimed in claim 80, wherein said transactional messaging services are adapted to store a user's mail box and address book as objects in a directory.

84-101. Cancelled.

102. (Previously Presented) The directory system of claim 1, wherein said memory segments are virtual memory segments, said memory means including physical random access memory and backing store.

103. (Previously Presented) The directory system of claim 1, wherein said memory segments are configured as shared memory.

104. (Previously Presented) The directory system of claim 103, wherein the system is configured to execute a plurality of virtual machines configured to access said memory segments of said shared memory.

105. (Previously Presented) The directory system of claim 1, wherein the system is configured to dynamically create, destroy, and/or resize said memory segments.

106. (Previously Presented) A directory process for providing directory services in a communications network using stored directory objects, the directory process being executed by a computer system, and including:

storing directory objects in computer memory as directory data, allocating portions of computer memory to provide memory segments dedicated to storage of corresponding subsets of directory data representing directory objects, said directory data including:

attribute data representing attributes of said directory objects,

directory information tree (DIT) data representing a hierarchical directory tree structure for said directory objects, and

management data for managing said directory objects,

said memory segments including one or more attribute segments, each of said attribute segments being dedicated to storage of attribute data for a plurality of directory objects, one or more DIT segments, each of said DIT segments being dedicated to storage of DIT data for a plurality of directory objects, and one or more object segments, each of said object segments being dedicated to storage of management data for a plurality of

directory objects, said management data including access control data for said plurality of directory objects.

107. (Previously Presented) A process as claimed in claim 104, wherein said memory segments are virtual memory segments.

108. (Previously Presented) A process as claimed in claim 106, including monitoring directory data stored in a plurality of memory segments; and redistributing at least a portion of said directory data in said plurality of memory segments based on said monitoring to improve performance of said directory services.

109. (Previously Presented) A process as claimed in claim 108, wherein said monitoring includes at least one of monitoring usage of said directory data, monitoring depth of a portion of a DIT, monitoring spread of a portion of a DIT, monitoring the number of instances of entities of said directory data, monitoring search times for said directory data, and monitoring the association of access control data with one or more directory objects.

110. (Previously Presented) A process as claimed in claim 109, wherein said entities include at least one of attributes, object classes, and directory objects.

111. (Previously Presented) A process as claimed in claim 108, wherein said step of monitoring includes monitoring associations of access control data with portions of directory data, and said step of redistributing includes storing one or more portions of said directory data with one or more associated portions of said access control data.

112. (Previously Presented) A process as claimed in claim 111, wherein said monitoring includes determining that one or more access control identifiers applies to a portion of a DIT, and said redistributing includes storing said portion of said DIT with said one or more access control identifiers.

113. (Previously Presented) A process as claimed in claim 111, wherein said monitoring includes determining that one or more access control identifiers applies to instances of an attribute type, and said redistributing includes storing said instances of said attribute type with said one or more access control identifiers.

114. (Previously Presented) A process as claimed in claim 108, including generating at least one new memory segment and wherein said step of redistributing includes storing at least a portion of said directory data in said at least one new memory segment.

115. (Previously Presented) A process as claimed in claim 108, wherein said step of redistributing includes storing respective portions of said directory data stored in a memory segment in two or more memory segments.

116. (Previously Presented) A process as claimed in claim 108, wherein said step of redistributing includes selecting portions of said directory data stored in two or more memory segments and storing the selected portions into one memory segment.

117. (Previously Presented) A process as claimed in claim 108, wherein said step of redistributing includes selecting object class information, access control information, and DIT structure information that applies to at least one portion of a DIT,

storing the selected information in at least one object segment, and associating the selected information with at least a portion of at least one DIT segment corresponding to said at least one portion of said DIT.

118. (Previously Presented) A process as claimed in claim 108, including monitoring usage of remote directory data and storing at least a portion of said remote directory data in at least one local memory segment based on said usage to improve performance of said directory services.

119. (Previously Presented) A process as claimed in claim 108, wherein said redistributing includes redistributing directory data from a memory segment into two or more memory segments.

120. (Previously Presented) A process as claimed in claim 108, wherein said monitoring includes monitoring the number of instances of directory data in a memory segment.

121. (Previously Presented) A process as claimed in claim 108, wherein said monitoring includes monitoring search times for said directory data.

122. (Previously Presented) A process as claimed in claim 108, wherein said redistributing includes segregating directory data based on access frequencies for said directory data.

123. (Previously Presented) A process as claimed in claim 109, wherein said reconfiguring includes aggregating directory data for a multi-object entity.

124. (Previously Presented) A directory system having components for executing the steps of claim 106.

125. (Previously Presented) A computer-readable storage medium having stored thereon computer program instructions for executing the steps of claim 106.